



TOWN OF VERNON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Vernon and Saint Bernard Church Partner to Provide Access to COVID-19 Testing in Downtown Area *Walk-up Testing Available Regardless of Insurance or Ability to Pay*

Vernon, CT – The Town of Vernon and Saint Bernard Church have announced a new partnership that will bring expanded COVID-19 testing to the downtown area of Vernon and surrounding community. Beginning Tuesday, May 26th from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm, residents may access testing via a walk-up service. Testing will take place in the church parking lot, located at 25 Saint Bernard Terrace in Vernon. **Walk-up** testing at Saint Bernard Church will continue every Tuesday until further notice. This is in addition to the current **drive-thru** testing that is occurring every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Vernon Senior Center located at 135 Bolton Road in Vernon.

“We want to make COVID-19 testing accessible and available to every member of our community”, said Vernon Mayor Daniel A. Champagne. “The Saint Bernard Church location is unique because we can now offer a ‘walk-up’ testing option for those who may not have access to a car, or who use public transportation.”

Father Rick Ricard, Pastor of the Saint Bernard Church, Blessed Sacrament Parish said, “It is a privilege to partner with the Town to provide COVID-19 testing to our community. We share a common mission to serve others by bringing hope and help to our neighbors during these difficult times.”

“As part of our local pandemic recovery strategy, the Town of Vernon continues to provide coordinated responses that engage our residents and create sustainable solutions that benefit the whole community” said Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director. “Through this faith-based partnership and the other public-private partnerships we have developed, we are collectively meeting the needs of our community and safeguarding public health and welfare.”

Testing services will be performed by Priority Urgent Care of Ellington. Pre-screening is encouraged, and testing will be available to anyone regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

“We at Priority Urgent Care strive to provide high quality and affordable care at all of our locations. We have been screening and managing patients with COVID-19 for several weeks,” said Dr. Daksh Rampal, MD, Medical Director and Co-founder of Priority Urgent Care. “Our communities are going through a tough time and we are available for them when they need us, 365 days a year. As the country is slowly and carefully re-opening, reliable testing is the cornerstone of any such plan. This will allow us to test and isolate people who might infect others, while allowing others to go out and participate in normal life activities. I would like to thank the Town of Vernon. They have been a great resource as we try to expand our services to more and more people who need testing. They have allowed us to safely and reliably treat our patients while maintaining safety to our staff and the public. In partnership with the Town of Vernon, we have already tested over 200 people. This partnership is a great example of what we must all do together in order to keep moving forward during these tough times.”

For more information, residents may contact Priority Urgent Care at (860) 454-0678 or the Town of Vernon Joint Coordination Center at (860) 896-4568.

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